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N. E. FARMER.

For the New England Farmer.

LIME, ASHES AND SALT FOR LAND.

Mr Breck—In your paper of the 31st of January, a correspondent over the signature of P. H., who "is about commencing farming operations," wishes for information in regard to the use of lime, ashes and salt as manure for grass land; what quantity sown broadcast per acre would be sufficient, &c. &c.

Having used lime to some extent, I shall offer a few remarks in reply to some of his queries.

I should not think it the most economical way to apply either lime or ashes "broadcast," unless his lands contain a large per centage of sulphur and iron, and that may be pretty well ascertained without a chemical analysis, from the nature of the rocks or stones, and its producing naturally sorrel, and the running vine, bramble, or blackberry, which delights in such soils. But it is a much better way to mix fresh slacked lime with peat, swamp muck, or loam and turf; and the compost would be much sooner ready for use, and vastly more valuable, if he can obtain animal matters to mix with the heaps, such as fish, fish offal, or that from the slaughter house; or the carcases of any "accidentally defunct" animals, from an elephant down to a mouse. Dr. Dana's rule is, 10 lbs. of carcass to 100 lbs. of peat, or vegetable mould. The lime, and peat or mould alone, would slowly, but most surely imbibe from the atmosphere nitrogen and oxygen in the right proportions, to form the nitrate of lime. But the animal matters contain nitrogen in a most concentrated form, and as soon as decomposition commences in the animal matter, the various elements cut loose from the compact that was controlled by the living vital principle, and are resolved into their proximate or ultimate principles, or form new combinations. And it is at the precise moment of decomposition (in their nascent state) that they enter into new combinations with the greatest facility; and at this period nitric acid is generated in large quantities, and as it has a strong affinity for the alkaline base of lime, it combines and forms nitrate of lime.

The experiments of hundreds of farmers in England, and some in this country, have proved to a demonstration the value of *nitrates* upon grass or meadow lands. But we will just look over the compost heap, managed as above described, and see what the farmer would get:—

1st, He has a heap of compost from his earthy materials, neutralized by the alkaline qualities of the lime, nearly equal to the same bulk of yard manure.

2. A large amount of nitrogen and oxygen in a concentrated and soluble form, (two essential elements of vegetables and plants,) for when saltpetre or any other nitrate is dissolved in water, it is not *decomposed*, but is taken up in solution by the rootlets of plants, and by the sap vessels carried to the leaf and decomposed, and assimilated, and made subservient to those laws that govern the vegetable world.

3. He has nearly the same amount of lime after the acid has been dissolved, that he would have had if the lime had been sown "broadcast," except the small portion that enters into the growing plants, as one of their inorganic constituents.

But the action of the lime has not yet ceased.

If the soil contains sour vegetable matter, (and all decomposing vegetable matter does yield carbonic acid,) the lime will neutralize it.

If it contains sulphuret of iron, it will combine with the acid, and form gypsum.

And if the land is well manured, it will in dry warm weather, combine again with nitrogen, &c., and form nitrate of lime, and hold it till dissolved by the rains, or until it is needed by the plants.

For some of the above reasons, ashes will be more profitable composted. And for several reasons, they are more valuable than lime for agricultural purposes. They contain a much larger number of substances or salts, essential to the full growth and developement of plants. They have a stronger affinity for nitric acid, and more readily form nitrate—a stronger alkaline property—and consequently neutralize a larger amount of acid, decompose silex, and render it *soluble*, for the purpose of forming the outer coating or glaze on the straw of grain and grasses, &c.

The spent ashes contain a portion of insoluble potash, which the water of the soapboiler will not dissolve, but the skill of the chemist can. When leached ashes are composted with peat or muck, the action of the mould and air upon the insoluble silicates is, to liberate the alkali, and render it soluble and active.

Your correspondent *hails* from Gloucester: (Cape Ann, I suppose)—if so, I should not think salt sown "broadcast" would be an economical way of using it; as, from the proximity of his location to the sea, and the great distance inland the water of the ocean is carried during heavy winds and storms, I should think there could be no great deficiency of salt in his lands. However, if he can obtain refuse salt at a cheap rate, and dissolve it in the water, to be used in slaking lime, it might *pay*—for in the operation of slaking the lime, double decomposition would result. The quick lime would unite with the muriatic acid of the salt, and form muriate of lime—and the base of the salt (soda,) would become carbonate of soda. These composted would form a first rate dressing for grass land, similar to that used upon Mr Cushing's farm at Watertown.

In respect to the time it would require to make the most of the compost, Dr. Dana says, two years. But I think your querist would get a very good compost, if made as early in the spring as convenient. If his land is level, it might be applied late in autumn, but if liable to wash by heavy rains, keep it till spring, and spread just as the grass is starting. And in the meantime, let him test, upon a small scale, the coming spring, lime, ashes, and salt, and the result will teach him the expediency of using it in future.

If you think any of the above facts or suggestions will be useful to your correspondent P. H., or others of your readers, they are at your service.

Feb. 8th, 1844. B.

Mr Colman.—It gives us pleasure to learn, as we do by the Mark-Lane (London) Express, of Dec. 18th, that Henry Colman, Esq. had so far recovered from his late injury as to be able to attend a special council of the Royal Agricultural Society, held Dec. 7th, at which he called the attention of the Council to the great inconvenience found at present to arise in all comparative trials in agricultural inquiries, from the want of an uniformity of the weights and measures employed in ascertaining the resulting produce, and a conventional standard of comparison to which the terms of every expression of value in these trials should have reference. In travelling through England, he had himself found it difficult to draw accurate conclusions from the results communicated to him; in some districts the load being said to contain three, and in others five bushels—the bushel on one occasion being estimated as equal to thirty-eight quarts. In weight, on the other hand, he found the pound to be made up of sixteen, eighteen, and twenty ounces, according to the custom of particular districts; while in Cambridge, butter was sold by the *yard*, and in Nottingham by the *pint*. The Council concurred with Mr Colman on the desirableness of an uniform system of weight and measure in all comparative trials. The President, Right Hon. Earl Spencer, suggested that it would be found convenient if all results of measure were expressed in bushels and parts of a bushel.

Bean Meal for Fattening Pigs.—Sir—"A Subscriber" wishes to know what is the best food for fattening pigs. I have myself tried nearly every description of food, and have never found any thing to produce so much weight or such fine meat in a given time, as bean-meal. Some pigs fed with this food, mixed with a small portion of fine toppings, weighed at six months old, twenty stones, (280 lbs.) and the pork was allowed to be extremely tender.

I last year tried to fatten them on grey peas alone, giving them milk to drink; these also were fat in an amazingly short time, but they did not weigh so heavily as those fed on bean-meal.

I have tried potatoes in every way, both boiled and raw, mixed with meal and alone, but have never found them answer. But let the food given be what it may, plenty of it must be given, so as to excite repose.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

An Agricultural Experimentalist.

—*Mark-Lane Express.*

We never knew a scolding person that was able to govern a family. What makes people scold? Because they cannot govern others. They who govern well are generally calm. They are prompt and resolute, but steady and mild.—*Exch. pap.*

SIXTH AGRICULTURAL MEETING AT THE STATE HOUSE—Feb. 13.

The subject under discussion was "Root Crops," and a deep interest was manifested in the debate throughout the evening. Mr Quincy presided. The meeting was very well attended. The editor of this paper opened the meeting with the following remarks:

The subject of Root Crops is a very prolific one, and might well engage our attention, with profit and interest, for many evenings. The cultivation of roots is of great importance in agriculture. Roots which belong to field culture, are, potatoes, carrots, turnips, beets and parsnips. First, the potato. This valuable vegetable is ascertained to be a native of South America, having been found wild both in Buenos Ayres and Chili. The potato was introduced into England, by Sir Walter Raleigh, in 1586, who procured the roots from Virginia, and were first planted by him on his estate of Youghall, near Cork. It is said to have been cherished and cultivated in Ireland before its value was known in England. Gerarde, a celebrated English botanist, had this root in his garden in 1597, under the name of Buttata Virginiana, recommending it to be eaten as a delicate dish, and not as common food. Parkinson mentions that the tubers were roasted and steeped in sack and sugar, or baked with marrow and spices, and even preserved and candied by the comfit makers. In England they were received with much prejudice. More than one hundred years after its first introduction, the potato was spoken slightingly of by numerous writers. But notwithstanding the prejudice entertained against them, their great value was gradually understood. It is now considered that the potato, as an article of human food, is next in value to corn or wheat, or by some considered of equal importance.

We must look upon the introduction of the potato as a great blessing to mankind. It has, no doubt, been the cause of preventing famine; indeed, when this root is cultivated in connection with other crops, we may say almost with a certainty that a famine cannot exist. Most devoutly, then, should we thank God for it, and at the same time, let us ask—How shall we cultivate it to the best advantage? in what soil? shall we plant the tubers whole or cut them in pieces? whether in hills or drills? Is it necessary to raise new varieties from seed? do the old varieties degenerate? How does it compare with carrots and other roots in value for stock? There are questions, gentlemen, which I shall leave for you to discuss. I will only remark that the cultivation of the potato is too often done in the most slovenly manner. It is not uncommon in the month of August, to see fields of this precious root, so overrun with tall luxuriant weeds, that a person would hardly know that potatoes had been planted, unless they took the pains to clear away the weeds. No wonder that a meagre crop of 75 to 100 bushels per acre, is all that is too frequently realized; whereas when due attention is given, proper manures, clean cultivation, on suitable soil, the husbandman may be rewarded with the ample crop of 400 to 500 bushels, or even more.

Potatoes seem to flourish best on new land, but grow well on almost any kind of soil, provided it is not very clayey or wet. Some of the largest crops on record have been raised on reclaimed bogs and peat. The farther we proceed eastward and northward, the potato seems to improve in quality. A cold season or climate, appears to be most congenial to the perfection of the root. Very hot, and continued dry weather in July and August is very prejudicial.

Second, the Carrot. This valuable root is said to be a native of Great Britain, and long cultivated as a garden plant. Its use for culinary purposes is well known, but as food for cattle, it has not received that attention among our farmers which its value demands. We are satisfied, by many years' experience, that the carrot is one of the most valuable roots for agricultural purposes known among us, and in our climate, worthy of more consideration even than the turnip. In New England, it can be brought to as great perfection, and to yield as large a crop, as in any other country. The varieties used in field culture, are the Long Orange, Altringham, and White Belgian. The last variety is of recent introduction, and will no doubt produce the largest quantity per acre. It has one peculiarity in which it differs from the other varieties: it grows partly above ground, like the beet, and assumes a greenish cast where exposed to the sun and air, but below ground, is of a clear white. I doubt whether the extra quantity will compensate for the deficiency of quality, in comparing it with the Long Orange. The Altringham is a coarse-growing variety, of a pale yellow, producing more to the acre than the Long Orange, but yielding less in point of richness. The Long Orange to me is preferable, and this variety has received my particular attention for many years. Our horses and cows have been liberally supplied with these and other roots. To horses, particularly, carrots are highly serviceable: they require much less grain when fed on them at the rate of one peck per day. They give the hair a peculiar smooth and glossy appearance. I have found them to have a salutary effect upon a horse that had the dangerous defect of stumbling: the difficulty was nearly overcome by feeding a peck of carrots in the evening, with a reduced quantity of meal with his cut feed.

The objection often made to this crop, that the expense exceeds the profit, is without foundation. Carrots can be raised with much less expense than potatoes; and a bushel of carrots is worth as much or more than a bushel of potatoes, for a horse, or any other animal.

The soil best adapted for carrots, is a deep, rich loam, free from gravel or sand. The manure should be well decomposed and fine; the ground pulverized deeply, and the manure well incorporated by plowing or harrowing. When the young plants show themselves distinctly, they should be wed. For this purpose, I use the scruffle or Dutch hoe, which may be worked to within half an inch of the plants, if they have been planted in straight lines: this cuts off the weeds just below the surface, and the sun utterly destroys them. It will then be necessary to go over the field and pull out the weeds in the rows with the fingers. Carrots, as well as other roots, are planted on ridges with success, and perhaps with less labor: we have sometimes raised them in this way.

Third, the Turnip. This plant is a native of Britain, but in its wild state, is said not to be recognized by ordinary observers, from wild mustard. The turnip was cultivated for cattle by the Romans, and has been used for the same purpose from time immemorial in Germany and the low countries. The introduction of improved turnip culture into English husbandry, is comparatively of modern origin, and will not date back farther than 60 or 80 years. It has occasioned a great revolution in the rural art. It has been observed, that turnips and clover are the two main pillars of the best courses of British husbandry.

The value of the turnip crop in New England, however, cannot compare with its value in Old England, owing to the great difference in the climate. In England, we are informed, that in consequence of the winters being more moderate than ours, the turnip crop is mostly consumed on the ground: the fields are divided into folds, by a wattled, movable fence, and the sheep and cattle are turned in, and when the crop is consumed in one fold, the fence is removed to another part of the field. All the excrements are thus left on the field, plowed in, and wheat sown, thus saving the expense of harvesting the crop and carting the manure. The climate too, of England is more favorable for the growth of the turnip than our own, it being colder in summer and much more humid, which is more congenial to the turnip family than our hot, arid summers.

The turnip, however, should not be underrated here, as the crop may be raised to good advantage for cattle and sheep, even here in New England.

Turnips should not be sown until the middle of July to the middle of August: their growth will be made mostly after the cold nights of September. They will flourish on lighter soil than is required for carrots. When sown broadcast among the corn at the last hoeing, a common custom, they are so shaded by the corn, the produce is generally small. The finest looking field of turnips I ever saw, was on the farm of the Hon. Daniel Webster, at Marshfield: they were cultivated in drills, and perfectly free of weeds. This mode is no doubt the best.

The varieties of turnip cultivated in England for stock, are very large, which are sown according to soil or the uses to which they are to be appropriated. In this country, the ruta baga and white flat English are about the only sorts raised for cattle. The purple-topped yellow fleshed ruta baga is considred the best variety. The Early Snow Ball turnip is the best variety known for table use. It is an improvement upon the Early White Dutch, and is not known extensively yet in our country.

Fourth, Beets. Of this root there are many varieties cultivated by man and beast. The mangel wurtzel and sugar beet, with their varieties, are considered most profitable for field culture. The mangel wurtzel was introduced from Germany into England 50 or 60 years since, and is now much cultivated for cattle. It is much larger than the common red beet, and yields crops of such great weight and succulency, that its cultivation may be justly considered of great importance, especially for milch cows, as well as other stock. Cows when fed on mangel wurtzel or sugar beet, (there is but little difference in their value,) give a greater quantity of milk than when fed on carrots, but perhaps of not so rich a quality.

Roots embraced in the beet family may be grown to advantage on any tolerably good soil, which is moderately moist. If the ground is too wet, and very rich, the roots will grow to a very large size, but they are apt to be watery and hollow, and soon rot when taken from the ground.

The soil must be deeply pulverized and well

enriched. Fifty tons to the acre have been raised, and even more. These, with ruta bagas, sugar beets, and other roots, succeed best when raised on ridges.

Fifth, Parsnips. This root has not been extensively cultivated for feeding cattle, to my knowledge; yet in many points it may be considered of as much or more importance than any other root.

On rich and well manured lands, we have accounts of 30 tons having been produced to the acre.

The parsnip contains more saccharine matter than the carrot, and have the advantage of standing out all winter, and can be fed fresh from the ground in April and May. This root is very grateful to the palate of animals, and highly conducive to their fattening, and it is a matter of astonishment that no more attention has been paid to its culture.

Mr Seaver, of Townsend, said he had made an experiment with plaster on potatoes, and would state the result. He had plowed up a pasture, on which he planted potatoes. He reserved four rows through the middle of the field, in which no manure was used. In two of these rows he used plaster, which was thrown over the potatoes before they were covered at the time of planting: the quantity used was about as much as he could hold in the palm of his hand: about the same quantity was applied again on the surface when they were hoed. In the other two rows no plaster was used: in these, there were many more potatoes in number than where the plaster was used, but not half the weight. Those that were plastered were large, sizeable, handsome potatoes—the others, very inferior.

The Hon. Morrill Allen, of Pembroke, said:

The soils of Massachusetts, I believe are generally favorable for root culture. Some of them may require considerable labor in the first preparation; deeper stirring and something more of manuring, at least in the outset, will be necessary than for many other crops. I am not aware that there is any particular difficulty in raising the various kinds of roots in any part of the State. What kinds can be raised to great extent, by farmers generally with profit, is a question of great interest? Carrots can be raised in Plymouth county from 500 to 300 bushels per acre. The cost of raising is not very accurately ascertained, but will not fall much if any thing short of $100. Now it is a questionable point whether the farmers there can apply to 600 or 800 bushels of carrots to farm stock in a manner to realize even the cost of raising. In the neighborhood of the city, where every quart of milk is immediately convertible into money, it is good policy to provide great variety of food for cows, but in the interior, where nearly all the profit from the cow is a more remote object, and labor quite as high, it will be prudent to feed on less expensive food even at the risk of receiving something less of milk.

My views are nearly similar of the several families of beets. They can be raised to great extent almost any where, but in few situations with profit. Parsnips in some soils I believe might be raised at less expense, and probably contain more nutriment for animals than any other roots. The turnip family can be raised with less expense than any other roots within my knowledge. With me they will grow almost any where and with very little culture. They furnish food of some importance for animals: I should like always to have some of them to feed stock with in winter; yet I raise very few. The Ruta Baga which is believed to contain the most nutriment, cannot be stored in large heaps without producing a surrounding atmosphere deleterious both to man and beast. One gentleman of my acquaintance after storing at considerable expense a fine crop of Ruta Baga in his cellar, was reduced to the alternative of taking them out again, or removing himself and family.

Our situation is widely different from farmers in England, where the turnip crop can be left in the field nearly or quite through the winter. I have one other objection against this crop which discourages me from raising it more than all others: I have never been able to make any other crop succeed well after turnips of any kind. The English turnip, which is raised with great ease, seems a great exhauster of soil, and the Ruta Baga is something worse, I know that turnips have long been successfully raised in England, and nothing is heard of the exhaustion of their soil. It should be remembered that all the soil of England is now artificial, and that the ammonia produced by sixteen millions of people and their domestic animals must be immense. The exhaustion of soil rarely comes into the account there. But, we must study to keep our land in decent condition with comparatively little manure.

For extensive culture, the potatoe seems to me preferable to any of the roots. It will grow with very little cultivation and will amply pay for the best that can be given. When the soil is favorable, well pulverised and good attention given to the selection of the seed, we obtain from 400 to 700 bushels pr. acre. As food for stock potatoes are of less value than carrots, but better than turnips. There is less danger of placing them in large heaps, and when not needed for stock, they will always command some price for the use of man, and in seasons of scarcity of provisions, they fill an important place in the market.

Having expressed these views of root crops, in conclusion I remark, that surface crops are regarded by me as far more valuable: possibly one reason of this preference may be the superficiality of my genius.

(Concluded on editorial page.)

From the Farmer's Cabinet.

POTATOES.

The time is fast approaching, when the farmer will have to look about and gather up his implements and prepare for action.

It is believed by many that the potatoe may be cultivated to great advantage, both for feeding milch cows and for fatting various kinds of stock, and especially swine. And the question very naturally arises, whether it is better to boil them for fattening hogs, or feed them raw. Some apprehend the labour and expense necessarily incurred by the process of boiling, are altogether thrown away, and that the apparatus and fixtures for such a process are only a nuisance, and calculated to enhance the labours of the husbandman, and impose a direct tax on his time and attention, without a corresponding advantage or profit. It is indeed difficult to conceive how the process of boiling can add or communicate any additional fattening properties, which they did not possess in their crude state: it might be urged, however, that by boiling and reducing them to a pulp, and mixing with a portion of meal, the animal would eat more and of course fatten sooner:—by such a process he might indeed to the eye appear to fatten faster; but when dressed and on the scales, the deception would appear; besides, experience has taught our best feeders, that to force the fattening process of any animal by very high feeding, is unprofitable, the animal being always in danger of being cloyed and loosing his appetite, and thrown into a fever by too great repletion, which generally requires some considerable time of total abstinence, before he can be restored to his natural appetite—thus making a considerable drawback on his improvement.

But instead of all this, we would recommend what we think a more simple and easy way for the farmer to fatten his swine; that is, if he desires potatoes to be a part of their food, which we think would be to his interest: Let him give them at proper stated times, their daily allowance of grain; say four quarts each per day, either whole or pulverized, wet or dry, as he pleases, and then let him give them regularly as many raw potatoes as they will eat clean, and let the sty be kept in good order and well littered, and our word for it, his hogs will show out well, either in the tub or in the market. If the feeder's corn is scarce, he can give them less grain, or if potatoes are scarce, let him give them more grain, regulating his feed as circumstances may require.

The object of this essay, is partly to give publicity to a method by which the writer is induced to believe more potatoes might be raised to the acre, than by any other method that has come to his knowledge, and with the least labour.

The writer has not had any experience as yet in the process he is about to recommend, but intends making the experiment the ensuing season on a small scale, and desires nothing more than that his plan may pass for what it may be thought to be worth.

The following is the plan proposed:—Measure off from your corn-stalk field as much land as you desire to plant with potatoes; then haul on the manure, giving it a very liberal coat of the best you can obtain; spread it carefully, then sow it with plaster, at the rate of three or four bushels to the acre; prepare your seed, and as the mode now is to plough around the field; as you do this for oats, drop the potatoes one foot apart in every furrow; and as the furrows are generally about a foot wide, you will then have a cutting on every square foot of ground, and admitting the plants would yield an average of two ordinary sized potatoes each—it has been ascertained that 280 middle sized potatoes make a bushel—then as there are 43,500 square feet in an acre of land; and calculating 280 potatoes to the bushel, we have a yield of 311 bushels to the acre, which being sold at one-third of a dollar per bushel, would amount to over a hundred dollars; and they often sell much hgher. All the labour you have after they are planted, is to harrow the ground about the time of their coming up: the tops will so effectually cover the ground as to prevent the weeds from materially injuring them; being planted early, they will be ready to harvest by the time you plough your out-stubble for wheat, they can then be turned out with the plough and grappled with the fork in the usual way.

A Farmer.

The contented are truly rich.

DANA'S PRIZE ESSAY ON MANURES.

Section Fifth.

Of the Action of the Salts of Cattle Dung.

Here it is we find ourselves thrown on a sea of opinions, without chart, compass, or pilot, if we trust to the conflicting theories which have been set up for land-marks and light-houses. Let us therefore, reader, trust to ourselves, aided by the little chemistry we have learned from the preceding remarks about the composition of salts.

I have endeavored to impress on your memory, that the term salt is very comprehensive. But then, to encourage one, it is also to be remembered, that salts are compounds of alkalies, earths, and metals with acids. Now the earths, alkalies, metals, may be united to each of the known acids, (and their name is legion,) yet you may not, by this change of acids, alter the nature of the earth, alkali or metal. That always remains the same; every time you change the acid, you alter the character of the salt. Thus soda may be united to oil of vitriol and form Glauber's salt, or to aquafortis and form South American saltpetre, or to muriatic acid and form common table salt. The soda is called the base or basis of this salt; that is always soda—you do not change its character by changing the acid. To give another example: lime may be united to carbonic acid and form chalk, or marble, or limestone, or it may be united to oil of vitriol and form plaster of Paris, or to phosphoric acid and form bone-dust. Now, in each case, the base of the salt, that is, the lime, remains unchanged; but, changing the acid, we change the nature of the salt, and of course its effects will be different. Now it is plain, that where the base of the salt remains the same, that will always act the same, but different effects will be produced by different acids. Each base acts always one way, but each has an action similar to every other. Each acid acts also one way, but each has an action distinct from every other: impress this on your mind. Reflect upon it a moment, and you will perceive that salts produce different effects according to the nature of their acid. Now this may be illustrated thus: you take every day, probably, with your every meal, common salt, that is, soda, a base, united to muriatic acid. Your digestion and health are all the better for it. You give your cattle a little salt: it does them good. Suppose now you change the acid of that salt, leaving soda, its base, in the same quantity you daily take. Instead of the muriatic, suppose you substitute the nitric acid, or, what is the same thing, suppose you use saltpetre, from Peru, instead of common salt. You need not be told that you would poison yourself and your cattle by so doing. You can drink, I dare say you have, cream of tartar punch. You feel the better for it. It is refreshing, cooling, opening. Now, cream of tartar is a salt of potash: it is potash and tartaric acid. You have a fever: your doctor gives you a sweat with Silvius's salt, that is, acetate of ammonia, a salt composed of that and vinegar; or you take perhaps an effervescing draught, formed of lemon-juice and pearl-ashes. All does you good: but suppose now you change these cooling, vegetable acids for a mineral acid, say oil of vitriol. You may not take potash united with a dose of oil of vitriol equivalent to the tartaric acid in the cream of tartar, without serious injury.

So is it, reader, in farming; the acids of some salts are not only harmless, but beneficial to plants; others are actual poisons. In the first case salts help to nourish plants, as common salt helps to nourish yourself; in other cases they poison plants, just as they would impair your constitution, perhaps kill you. But it is to be remembered, as in our own case, even those that poison, in a small dose, become medicines, so, in plants, a small dose is not only good, but truly essential. Now if we divide the acids into two classes, the nourishers and the poisoners, such will also be the nature of the salts. When we therefore attempt such a general division of the salts, it may be said that all the acids derived from the vegetable kingdom are harmless; so are the acids called mineral, yet whose components are in part like those of the vegetable acids; for instance, aquafortis or nitric acid. But the true mineral acids are poisonous, such are oil of vitriol and spirits of salt. One thing is here to be borne in mind. It must never be out of sight, in trying to understand how salts make plants grow. You cast your salt upon the ground, it lies there, no action occurs. It rains. Your salt is dissolved and disappears; it seems to do no good. Cast your salt now among sprouting seeds, and growing roots; here is life; well, now, life is just as much a power or force as electricity is. It exerts its force, no matter how, that is quite another consideration. I say, life exerts its force here to separate the acid and the base of a salt, just like a chemical force. We can and do separate the components of salts by other substances, nay, we do it by electricity alone.

Now this is all which it is necessary for you to know, and to understand about this action of plants upon salts: it does disunite the components of the salts. What is the consequence? The alkali, earth, and metal act as such, the same as if no acid was present. The acid also acts by itself; if it is a nourisher, it helps the plant; if it is a poisoner, it hurts it. It produces either a healthy, green crop, the effect of alkali, or a stunted yellow, sickly plant, the effect of acids. Now, neutralize this acid—kill it—and you see your crops start into luxuriance, and you reap where you have strewed. So much for illustration.

Let us now apply this view of the action of salts to those contained in cattle dung. In the first place, we have salts of potash, of soda, of lime; these are the most abundant and active. Then we have salts of iron, manganese, of clay and magnesia. These last, existing in small proportion, may be thrown out of the account, bearing in mind, however, that, though we set these aside, *a plant* does not; they enter equally with the others into its composition. Let us begin with the salts of potash. It is found combined in cattle dung, first, with a vegetable acid, the acid of mould. It is a nourisher of plants. Secondly, with sulphuric acid or the acid of sulphur, called oil of vitriol. This is one of the poisoners, existing only in small proportion in cow dung: it ministers to the wants of a healthy plant. The same is true of the common salt or the muriate of soda of dung. If it existed in larger quantities it would poison the plants to which it might be applied. The next salts are those of lime, phosphate and sulphate of lime, or lime united to sulphuric and phosphoric acid, forming plaster and bone-dust. The acids here, if abundant, would have a decided bad influence—they are poisoners: but the carbonic acid in the carbonate of lime, is a nourisher. Now from the small quantity in which these all exist in cattle dung, they act only beneficially. But if you apply a great excess; even of cattle dung, you may be sure of an unfavorable result. It will be produced by the acids of those salts which we have called poisonous. To continue our remarks on the acids of salts of dung, it is to be observed, that they act also upon the soil.

They decompose that. That is, they extract from the soil alkalies, or other substances, like those in the original salt. Now though applied, as they must be, in very small doses in cattle dung, yet, because of their decomposing action on soil, they continually renew themselves, they last till all their acid is taken up to supply the wants of growing plants.

Let us now, reader, if you understand how the acids of the salts of dung act, turn to the bases or the alkalies and metals and earths of these salts. What is their action? What purpose do they serve in dung applied as manure? First, they enter into and form a part of the living plant: they form a part of its necessary food as much as do the constituents of mould. Secondly, when these alkalies and metallic bases are let loose, by the disuniting power of a growing plant, then they act as alkalies upon mould. They hasten decay, render mould more soluble, fit it to become food for plants.

This account of the action of mould and salts in cattle dung, may appear to you, reader, long and hard to be understood. I do request you not to pass it over on that account. A patient reading—perhaps some may require two or more readings—will put you in possession of all you need to know, to understand the why and the wherefore of the action of mould and salts of whatever manure may be used. What has been said of the action of mould and salts in cattle dung, is equally applicable to all manures. If, then, you bend your bones to this subject, and master it, your labor of understanding the action of other manures, will be reduced to the mere statement of the several substances which they may contain. We therefore proceed to point out other manures, composed of the droppings of animals.

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Section Sixth.

Of Night Soil, Hog Manure, Horse and Sheep Dung.

These have not all been analysed with the same degree of care, and as often, as has cattle dung. Some, as for instance, night soil, have been examined thoroughly but once. Now, it is not quite fair to base our reasoning upon these single analyses, and say that this or that manure contains this or that salt in greater or less quantity than another.

The quantity and kind of salts are materially affected by several circumstances, which will be considered in the next section. An analysis made when the animal is fed and worked one way, will vary from the result which would be obtained when the circumstances are varied. It is, therefore, quite useless, in the general consideration of the composition of manures, to enter upon the details of each. General results, general expressions of facts, are sufficient for understanding the nature of animal droppings. It is well ascertained, however, that all these droppings, of various animals, contain essentially the same salts as does cattle dung. They all contain portions of each of the substances which form plants. It will be enough for the purpose of this Essay, to present to

your eye, reader, a table, showing the proportions of water, mould, and salts, which the dung of yourself and your stock contain.

	Water.	Mould.	Salts.
Night soil and hog manure,	75.30	23.50	1.20
Horse dung,	71.20	27.00	.96
Sheep dung,	67.90	22.50	3.06

(To be continued.)

RAISING CALVES.

The modes of rearing calves, as described by a number of gentlemen in the late discussions at the State House, were so various, and the opinions expressed of so opposite a character, that we felt desirous to know the course pursued by a respected friend, Lovett Peters, Esq., who has had much experience, and in whose judgement we have much confidence. We addressed a note to him, to which he has responded in the following communication, for which he has our hearty thanks. We wish the same disposition to communicate their experience, was manifest in many other of our agricultural friends.—Ed.

Mr Breck—Sir—Agreeably to your request, I will state my method of raising calves.

I take my calves from the cow when one or two days old, and learn them to drink milk, two quarts at a time, twice a day, which is as much as a calf will take till he has learned to drink well, which will be in two days, when learned in my fashion; then increase the quantity to three quarts at a time. When the calf is one or two weeks old, set the milk the half of twentyfour hours, take off the cream, warm the milk to blood heat, and give it him. In no case should a calf have milk colder than blood warm; as cold, or nearly cold milk will certainly make a calf scour. When the calf is three weeks old, let the milk stand twentyfour hours, skim, and warm, and increase the quantity to four quarts at a time, until he is at least eight weeks old; then give him less every day, till it is thought best to stop entirely. I have tried porridge, and Indian meal put into milk, but uniformly found that skim milk alone is best.

Some find it difficult to learn calves to drink: the general practice is, to put the fingers into the calf's mouth; some fix something at the bottom of a trough, to serve as a teat: this last is not a good practice, for by it the calf never learns to drink.

My method is the following: have a piggin, put a small quantity of milk in first, (lest the calf spill it.) Put the hand over the calf's nose, the thumb on one side, and the fingers on the other; force his nose into the milk and hold it there: he will take but little the first time; the second time he will do better; and oftener than otherwise will take as much the second time as he needs.

Formerly it frequently happened that we were troubled to learn calves to drink; but since we have practiced as above stated, we have had no difficulty. Some think it best to let a calf suck till it is three or four months old; I have tried that, and have not found it the best way for me: it costs too much. Calves that are raised by sucking a cow three or four months, require better keeping ever after than those raised on skimmed milk: the latter if kept well through the first winter, will always be more hardy the former; and at three or four years old, will be as large and as well shaped.

Years gone, when butter sold at a good price, that I made while my calves drank skim milk, brought me as much money as the calf would if fattened; so that the calf cost but very little, except the labor in tending. My cows which have been raised on skimmed milk and meadow hay, have grown to a good size, and when fattened, have weighed, when slaughtered, eight, and some ten hundred, and had in some instances, 120 lbs. rough tallow. So you see, raising calves on skimmed milk, does not make very mean cattle.

Many have been the remedies recommended for calves when they scour: I have tried most of them, but have had better success with the following than with any other. It is, half a pint of cider, and as much blood, taken from the calf's neck, shook well together, and given him with a bottle.

LOVETT PETERS.

Westboro', Feb. 12th, 1844.

For the N. E. Farmer.

REARING CALVES ON "SKIM MILK."

Mr Breck—I was glad to perceive in the remarks of Col. Jaques at one of the late agricultural meetings at the State House, as published in your paper, that he discountenanced the practice of taking calves (intended to be reared,) from their mothers at a day or two old, and feeding them thereafter during their *calf hood*, on "skim milk" or "skim milk porridge." Such a course, reasoning, as the lawyers say, either *a priori* or *a posteriori*, seems in the highest degree injudicious, and I am glad to see it denounced by so experienced and enlightened a breeder as Col. Jaques. It is as unnatural as it is impolitic—and they who adopt it for present gain, do it, most likely, at the expense of future loss.

Milk in the state it comes from the cow, (and particularly *the first* after calving,) contains the essential elements which make the constitution of the offspring;—it is just what the calf needs:—this is a law of nature, and cannot, therefore, be violated with impunity.

How soon a calf should be taught to accustom itself to other nourishment, may be a matter of question; but that this should not be attempted *earlier* than six weeks after birth, I think is beyond all question. I judge so from simple reason, aside from the knowledge imparted to the same effect by the science of animal physiology.

As to "skim milk" alone, or "skim milk" *fixens* being a *proper* food for calves designed for rearing, the bare idea is ridiculous enough, and no one, it may be supposed, who consulted his true interest, would practice it, were he possessed of knowledge which the science of chemistry—animal chemistry—imparts. With the brute creation no less than with the human species, it is true, that the constitution of the mature animal depends, in a great measure, upon the treatment it received in its youth, and hereditary influences; and the sooner this truth shall have its due influence with our farmers generally, and triumph over ill-judged economy and prejudice for antiquated customs, the sooner shall we have an improvement in the character of our stock—and, what is even more desirable, an improvement in the character of *our own species*.

Why, it might be asked—and it certainly seems to me a *rational* question—why do we deem it essential to nourish our babes with *good, rich* milk, when taken from the mother, yet give our calves that which has been divested of the best of its nourishing properties? Why not look to ulterior consequences in the one case as well as in the other? Would a race of men brought up on "*skim milk*"—(Judas! what an idea!)—be as vigorous and effective as one that had been reared on the pure, unskimmed liquid? *I* don't believe they would, whatever others may think of it.

I do not wish to be understood to say that a calf raised on "skim milk" or other mean food, may not make what is now generally deemed a good cow: my question is, would it not be productive of improvement in the character of our stock—especially as breeders—were the mode of rearing calves practiced by Col. Jaques, generally adopted?

If any are disposed to laugh at these suggestions as "only theory," be it so—and I shall have the gratification of knowing that if I have not ministered to the *edification* of any, I have at least contributed to the *merriment* of some—and this, in *my* philosophy, is not an entirely worthless object. However, I would say to those who may be excited to laughter rather than to reflection by my ideas, that, claiming no infallibility of judgment, and well aware that "there are more things in heaven and earth than were ever dreampt of in my philosophy," they cannot excite my *anger* by merely making themselves merry with (what they may deem) my speculative notions,—and this is said to encourage those who see heresy in my views, to meet and confute them (if they can,) without fear of finding in me an irritable or bigoted opponent. "He that *will* not reason, is a bigot; he that *can* not, is a fool; and he that *dare* not, is a slave."

I subscribe myself yours, and an

Anti-Skim-milk-er.

Hull, (near America,) Feb. 1844.

☞Well, here we have a correspondent who shows "war to the"—quill-end against our friend Peters and others of like faith in the virtues of "skim milk." He is evidently no "calf" himself, whatever may be the merit of his opinions on the subject of calves. As he has challenged others to enter the arena with him, we will merely assume the position of an "armed neutrality" and watch the movements.—Ed.

SEA-WEED AS MANURE.

We copy the following from the Mark-Lane (London) Express:

Sir—In answer to an "Isle of Wight Farmer," concerning sea-weed, in your paper of the 20th inst., I beg to say that the best way of rotting the weed is, to mix it with other manures in the yard. By experience, I have found that putting it in a heap by itself, it decays away almost to nothing. If he has got plenty of straw to mix with it, and the other manures, it is astonishing how soon it converts them into excellent manure.

The crops that I have found it to suit best when so mixed, were turnips and barley. I have known it when applied in this way, to produce barley weighing 2 lbs. per bushel more than that dressed with farm-yard dung. I have known it to produce good crops of oats, when plowed into the land fresh from the sea; but this way of using it encourages the growth of weeds; but by being fermented with other manures, checks it.

An Agriculturist.

Nov. 30th, 1843.

Locke, being asked how he accumulated so much knowledge, replied, it was by not being ashamed to ask for information.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

Edited by Joseph Breck.

Boston, Wednesday, Feb. 21, 1844.

SIXTH AGRICULTURAL MEETING AT THE STATE HOUSE.

(Continued from page 267.)

Mr Stone, of Beverly, said, in reference to these Agricultural discussions, that we appeared to be getting at the "root" of the matter. The gentleman who first spoke, in his remarks on potatoes, had called up some reminiscences, for he had been glad in times past to call in the assistance of Mr B.'s predecessor, to help him out in a matter where his veracity was at stake, relative to his account of a large crop of this valuable root. The potato, he considered one of the most valuable roots cultivated: no esculent entering so largely in domestic consumption. In this respect there had been a great change within the last two generations. A neighbor informed him that his grandfather told him, that turnips were used instead of potatoes; that one year he laid up 50 bushels of turnips for family use, and had that year a wonderful crop of 6 bushels of potatoes: that he was disturbed at the great quantity, and troubled to get rid of them. It was now quite the reverse; many families would lay in 50 bushels of potatoes, and not know what to do with the 6 bushels of turnips.

In his neighborhood, the cultivation of roots for cattle was attracting the attention of farmers, and many raise them extensively. Mr Stone alluded to the accounts which were published a few years ago in the newspapers, concerning the value of the sugar beet for cattle. A neighbor of his who had a large number of cattle was induced by reading these accounts to procure the seed and cultivate it for his cattle, but it did not come up to his expectations. Mr Stone said it was a good root but not equal in value to the carrot; his neighbour thought his cows produced more milk and of a better quality when fed on carrots, than when beets were used. He was satisfied there was not merit enough in the beets to give them a claim upon more attention than was bestowed upon other roots. In M. Stone's neighborhood, many substituted carrots in part for grain, and it was found that horses particularly, thrived better than when fed on grain alone. As to the value of roots, it depended upon circumstances: there was no rule that would answer for all locations to apply indiscriminately. Farmers should not be too much influenced by accounts in the newspapers, as the facts related although true, took place under peculiar circumstances, with regard to soil, climate, distance from market, &c. He thought, however, all would find it for their interest to raise some portion of their food for cattle in roots.

Mr Hobbs, said it was no doubt the want of proper care in selecting the best potatoes for seed, which had given rise to the complaints of their degenerating. A neighbor of his had planted the "long red," ever since it was introduced, more than 30 years ago, and the potatoes were as fine in quality and as productive as at first, and he thought there was no better kind in the market: this gentleman always saved the best for seed. Mr Hobbs remarked that he knew it was the custom of some farmers to plant their small potatoes, on account of their being less saleable; but when small potatoes are planted, it must be expected that the produce will be of the same quality, and if such a course must be persisted in, farmers must expect their potatoes to degenerate. He remarked that carrots were particularly good for horses: he could speak from experience: he was in the habit of giving them to his horses in equal porportions with grain.

Mr Knowles of Eastham, said he did not pretend to know much about agriculture, living as he did, on the barren sand of Cape Cod. But he would endeavor to say a few words about roots. It was a general impression he said, that cattle on the Cape lived on salt fish and herring, but he had seen this mode of feeding practiced only in one town, viz. Provincetown. He said there were many small bog holes interspersed throughout his town, which when properly cleared and drained, and sand, muscles and other shell fish had been carted on, produced a great abundance of very fine roots of excellent quality. So many were raised some years that it was found extremely difficult to dispose of them to a profit, as they were at a distance from the market.

Mr Cole remarked that economy was of great importance in every branch of farming, but especially in raising roots; said he had an account where roots had been produced at 4 cents per bushel.

He thought it best to prepare the land in the fall, that the manure should then be ploughed in; some he knew would object to this course, but as he thought manure would not filtrate, there could be no disadvantage in it. As the roots of plants penetrate very deep, it was important the soil be thoroughly and deeply pulverized. As soon as the weeds began to start in the spring, the ground should be plowed or harrowed again, to destroy them, and the process should be repeated as often as they appear, until the last of May—when the seed should be sprouted by soaking and sowed. He thought by this mode one half the labor would be saved on account of less trouble from weeds. [Unless Mr Cole's land is different from ours, we should not suppose any thing would be gained by this course. We might destroy our weeds in the same way till the middle of July and so on—and the same evil must be contended with. Until the plant shade the ground, the weeds will continue to annoy the cultivator; this is our opinion.—Ed.]

In regard to potatoes, it was found by experiment that they would not mix when planted promiscuously together when propagated from the roots.

[Nature as well as science tells us that there can be no mixture of varieties except from seedling plants, and then from fructifying one flower from the pollen of another. Our florists are fully experienced on this point: they can keep their hundreds of varieties and even thousands distinct from generation to generation, whether their roots are fibrous, bulbous or tuberous, when planted in beds together: but how easy for them to produce a flower to suit their fancy by judicious crossing. —Ed.]

Mr Cole thought two bushels of carrots could be raised with as much ease as one bushel of potatoes: there might be a saving in raising carrots to sow them in double rows, with a sufficient space between, to use the plough or cultivator.

Mr Allen enquired whether potatoes when planted together would retain their flavor. Mr Cole said it was the practice of his father to plant two particular varieties together; this had been done many successive years without any change.

Mr Buckminster said, the great objection to raising roots, appeared to be the cost. He should like to know by what process roots could be raised at 4 cents per bushel.

Mr Cole said the case he alluded to was where a man sowed an ounce of turnep seed on a lot of new land which had been burnt over. That 180 bushels were produced which only cost 4 cents per bushel.

Mr Metcalf, of Medway, said he would relate the experience of a neighbor in feeding carrots and ruta baga to milch cows. He fed on carrots one week, and then on ruta baga, and found the quantity of milk increased one-third when fed on ruta baga: the next week carrots were used, and the quantity diminished; but when put on ruta bagas again, it was increased, as before. The experiment was repeated, always with the same result. This was in the winter season. No unpleasant flavor is given to the milk, if the cows are milked before feeding. Mr M. said he had experimented with potatoes, by planting a part on long manure from the stable, and the other part on hog manure. He observed a striking difference in the growth between them. Those on the hog manure looked very luxuriant and green, while those on the long manure looked pale and sickly. In digging, he found those manured with the hog manure produced one-third more.

Mr Gardner, of Bristol, said he had a word to say in regard to the deterioration of the potato, when long planted. He said the Chenango potato had been 15 or 20 years in cultivation, and was to this day considered the best variety, and brought the highest price in the city of Providence. He thought the remarks made by Mr Allen about cutting potatoes, strictly true. It was important to select the finest ones for seed.

In relation to the cultivation of the carrot crop, he thought by sprouting the seed before sowing, a saving of labor in weeding would be effected. He said one great difficulty to be encountered was, to keep them free from weeds, and with this care, a great crop could be raised; but farmers generally had so many other matters of importance to attend to that they could not spend so much time in weeding carrots as was required.

Mr Haywood said he should like to get some instruction from practical farmers in relation to manuring with hog manure. He planted one year, one bushel of Long Red potatoes from which he dug 22 bushels. The next year, he manured with hog manure; the vines looked very fine, and he expected a large return, but was sadly disappointed in the result. He attributed the failure to the hog manure, for the land and season were good.

Mr Smith, of S. Hadley, thought the potato crop a valuable one; but when he thought of the toil in digging the crop in his young days, it even now makes his fingers ache. He thought the turnip crop of more importance to the farmer. His mode was to give a top dressing of ashes on the prepared land, which with the seed was brushed in. They were the cheapest food, and good for fattening cattle, provided they were not used for the last few weeks before butchering.

Mr Allen remarked that in his experience hog manure was very unfavorable to the potato crop.

Mr Sheldon, a drover, had some experience in raising roots. He considered potatoes the most important crop —next carrots. He thought twice the quantity of carrots could be raised on a given quantity of ground, than of potatoes, but they required twice as much manure and twice as much labor. He thought he raised 500 bushels of potatoes as easy and at as little expense, in the following manner. He carted his manure into a field where corn was raised the year before: this was left in heaps and afterwards spread: the potatoes were then put between the old hills, which were then split with the plow, and the potatoes thus covered. He thought potatoes were better for fattening cattle than any other root. He had never bought an ox that had been fattened on potatoes, but turned out as well as he expected. Mr S. said his son had a beautiful pair of fat three-year old steers, that had no other feed than hay, grass and potatoes. Carrots were better than turnips, were more like grain, and kept creatures in better condition; the milk when fed on carrots, was of better quality and produced more butter. He estimates the turnip crop as he should a "friend in need." If he found his hay and potato crops were coming short, a turnip crop could be raised late in the season, and in such an extremity it was highly to be prized.

Mr B. V. French said he had been very much interested in the discussion, but it would have been much more so had the cost of cultivating the different crops been stated. He said there was a vagueness about the statements which he hoped would be corrected.

He would suggest an easy mode of raising roots. Last year he had a good crop of Chenango potatoes, which he got off the field in season to sow Norfolk turnip seed, from which he obtained a good second crop of this root: he sowed very little seed. The turnip crop was a very exhausting one.

Several other gentlemen spoke on the subject in an interesting manner, whose remarks are necessarily excluded for want of room.

THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietors of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass. in a shaded Northerly exposure, for the week ending Feb. 18.

Feb. 1844.		7, A.M.	12, M.	5, P.M.	Wind.
Monday,	12	6	25	19	N. W.
Tuesday,	13	14	38	32	S.
Wednesday,	14	28	36	31	N. W.
Thursday,	15	14	34	30	N.
Friday,	16	31	32	36	N. W.
Saturday,	17	19	47	32	S.
Sunday,	18	8	12	11	N. W.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, Feb. 19, 1844.

Reported for the N. E. Farmer.

At Market 500 Beef Cattle, 900 Sheep and 40 Beef Cattle unsold.

Prices.—*Beef Cattle.*—The prices obtained last week for a like quality were hardly sustained. We quote a few extra $4 75 a $5, first quality $4 25 a $4 50, second quality $4 00 a $ 4 25, third quality $3 50 a $4.

Sheep.—Small lots were sold from $1 50 to $2 00. Wethers from $2 75 to $4 00.

Swine.—None at market.

N. B. We noticed eight premium cattle which arrived in the cars from Connecticut, after the close of the market.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

Corrected with great care, weekly.

SEEDS. Herds Grass, $2 37½ to 2 62 per bushel. Red Top 45 to 50 cents. Clover—Northern, 00 to 12c.—Southern, 10 a 12 c. Flax Seed, $1 50 per bushel. Lucerne, 33 c. per lb. Canary Seed, $2 75 per bushel.

GRAIN. The arrivals since our last report amount to about 60,000 bushels. A considerable portion of the arrivals, about 15,000 bushels, is going into store on account of first hands.

Corn—Northern, new, bushel 00 to 00—Southern, round yellow, old, 00 a 00—Southern flat yellow, new, 49 a 50—do. do. white 46 a 47—do New Orleans, 00 a 00—Barley 00 a 00 —Rye, Northern, 70 a 72—do. Southern, 00 a 00 — Oats, Southern, 30 a 32—Northern do. 34 to 35—Beans, per bushel 1 00 a 1 62.—Shorts, per double bush. 30 a 40—Bran, 20 a 23.

FLOUR. There has been less activity in market during the past week, but as stocks are not large for the season, prices are well supported for all descriptions.

Baltimore, Howard Street, 4 mos. cr. $0 00 a 5 12½—do. wharf, $0 00 a 5 00—do. free of garlic, $0 00 a 5 12½—Philadelphia do. 4 mos. $0 00 a 5 00 —Fredericksburg, low l'd 4 mos. $5 00 a 5 12—Alexandria, wharf mountain, 0 00 a 0 00. —Georgetown, $5 12 a 5 50—Richmond Canal, $5 00 a 5 12 —do. City, $0 00 a 0 00—Petersburgh, South side $0 00 a 0 00 —do. Country $5 00 a 5 50—Genesee, common, cash, $5 18 a 5 25— do fancy brands $5 37 a 5 62 — Ohio, via Canal, $0 00 a 0 00—do do New Orleans, cash $5 00 a 5 50. Rye, $3 62 a 0 00—Indian Meal in bbls. $2 75 a 2 87.

PROVISIONS. There is a little more firmness in the market for good qualities, and the private operations of the week have been at present quotations.

Beef—Mess 4 mo. new bbl. $7 00 a 7 25—Navy—$6 25 a 0 00.—No. 1, $6 00 a 0 00—do Prime $5 00 a 5 50—Pork—Extra clear 4 mo. bbl. $12 00 a 12 50—do Clear $11 50 a 12 00 do. Mess, 9 50 a 10 00—do Prime $8 50 a 0 00—do Mess from other States,— a — —do Prime do do $0 00 a 0 00 do. Cargo do. 0 a 0 00— —Clear do do $00 00 a 00 00— Butter, shipping, 12 a 14—do store, uninspected, 0 a 00—do dairy, 14 cts. a 17—Lard, No. 1, Boston ins. 6¾ a 7 —do South and Western, 6¼ a 7 — Hams, Boston, 0 a 0 — Southern and Western, 5 a 5½—Cheese, Ship'g and 4 meal, 3 a 4½ —do new milk, 4½ a 5½.

WOOL. Duty. The value whereof at the place of exportation shall not exceed 7 cts. per pound, 5 per cent. ad val. All whereof the value exceeds 7 cts. per pound, 40 per ct. ad. val. and 3 cts. per pound.

Domestic Wool of all descriptions is in active demand, and prices improving.

Prime or Saxony Fleeces, washed, lb. 37 a 41 c.—American full blood, do 35 a 37—Do. 3-4 do 32 a 35—Do. 1-2 do 29 a 30—1-4 and common do 25 a 28 — Smyrna Sheep, washed, 20 a 23—Do. unwashed, 9 a 13 — Bengasi do 6 a 13—Saxony, clean, 00—Buenos Ayres unpicked, 7 a 10—do. do. picked, 12 a 16—Superfine Northern pulled lamb 30 a 35—No. 1 do. do. do. 27 a 30—No. 2 do do do 22 a 25—No. 3 do do do 15 a 18.

HOPS. Duty 20 per cent.

The receipts of the week are 75 bales, on account of growers, which brought 6 3-4 a 7c.

1st sort Mass. 1843, lb. 6 3-4 a 7 1-4; 2d do 4 1-2 a 5 1-4.

HAY, 14 to 16 per ton—Eastern Screwed $10 to 12.

EGGS, 15 a 18.

POULTRY. Turkies per lb. from 9 to 12cts.—Geese common 7 to 9—Bremen 10 to 12—Chickens 6 to 10—Ducks 8 to 10.

WANTS A SITUATION AS GARDNER,

A middle aged married man, has a practical knowledge of the management of Vines, Greenhouse Plants, the Flower and Kitchen Garden: is also well acquainted with the Pruning and Training of wall Trees has had more then 20 years' experience, can have a good character if required from the place he is leaving.

Apply to JOSEPH BRECK & CO., No. 51 North Market Street, Boston. Feb. 14.

WANTS A SITUATION AS GARDNER.

A young man who understands the Green House, Hot House, Forcing, Nursery, Flower and Kithen Gardening, in all its various branches, and who has had several years experience in one of the best places in New England, wishes a situation in any private or public establishment. Can furnish the best reference.

A line addressed to B. W. O. Roxbury, Mass., will command immediate attention. Feb. 14.

SITUATION WANTED AS GARDNER

By a man who understands the management of a Greenhouse perfectly, and the Flower Garden generally. Good references given. Apply to J. BRECK & CO., 52 North Market St. Feb. 7.

POUDRETTE! POUDRETTE!!

The subscribers keep constantly on hand, and for sale Poudrette in quantities to suit purchasers; packed in Barrels in order for shipping, or transportation by wagon or Rail Road.

The experience of five years past has satitfied many farmers, that this manure has the quickest operation upon vegetable matter, producing greater abundance, and is the cheapest manure they have ever tried.

Orders left at the New England Seed Store, and at the factory in Brookline, will meet with prompt attention.

For sale by J. BRECK & Co., 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston. Oct 26.

GRINDSTONES ON FRICTION ROLLERS.

Grindstones of different sizes, hung on friction rollers and moved with a foot treader, is found to be a great improvement on the old mode of hanging grindstones. Stones hung in this manner are becoming daily more in use, and wherever used, give universal satisfaction. The rollers can be attached to stones hung in the common way. For sale by J. BRECK & Co., No. 51 North Market street.

PUMPKIN SEED WANTED.

The subscribers will pay a fair price for a few bushels of the "old fashioned yellow Pumpkin Seed," suitable for planting. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Boston, Nov. 23.

GARDEN & FLOWER SEEDS FROM LONDON.

We have received, by the Barque Huntress, from London, a choice assortment of GARDEN AND FLOWER SEEDS. We have also received the invoices of three other shipments of Seeds and Trees, which are expected to arrive in the course of 30 days, which will give us the largest and most choice collection of SEEDS AND TREES ever offered by us. Our customers and friends are requested to send in their orders. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Boston, Dec. 27th, 1843.

SUPERIOR SALT FOR THE DAIRY.

For sale at the Grist Mill in Beach St., *superior fine Salt*, ground from the very best of Bonaire and St Martin's Salt, and is decidedly the best and cheapest article for the Dairy and family use, being of nearly double strength and much purer than the Liverpool salt. For sale by

A. SHIVERICK and
HOWES & CROWELL,

Boston, Dec. 27. 3mo 36 Commercial wharf.

MUCK MANUAL.

The Farmer's Muck Manual, by Dr. S. L. Dana—price 62 1-2 cents, for sale by JOS. BRECK & CO.

Dec. 11.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.,

NEW ENGLAND

Agricultural Warehouse

AND

SEED STORE.

51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. having received a full and general assortment of FIELD, GRASS, GARDEN and FLOWER SEEDS, worthy of cultivation, confidently recommend them as being pure and of the first qualities, unmixed with other varieties; they have no hesitation in saying that their collection of Seeds is the best, and of the greatest variety ever offered for sale at any establishment in the U. States, and would invite all to send in their orders as soon as possible, that they may supply themselves with the choicest varieties in good season for the Spring planting.

The following are a few of the most important kinds which they offer wholesale and retail, viz:

PEAS.

Cedo Nulli, Hills' Early, Early Dwarf, do. Charlton, do. Frame, do. Warwick, Improved Blue Imperial, Woodford's Dwarf Marrow, Bishop's Dwarf, for borders, Knights' Dwarf, Dwarf Marrowfats, Tall do.

BEANS.

Lima, Saba, Horticultural Pole, Dwarf China, do. Mohawk, do. Marrow, Red Cranberry Pole, White do. do. Kidney Pole, Dwarf Kidney, do. Case knife, do. Six Weeks, &c.

CABBAGES.

Large Late Drumhead, Late Sugar-loaf, Green Globe Savoy, Red Dutch, Low Dutch, Early York, Battersea, Vanack, Hope, Early Sugar-loaf, with a complete variety of other kinds.

Long Blood and Turnip Beets, French Sugar Beets, Mangel Wurtzel, Ruta Baga, Long Orange, Early Horn and White Field Carrots, Early and Late Cauliflowers, Broccolis of all sorts, Cucumbers, Melons, Squashes, sweet Marjorum, Sage, Summer Savory, Thyme, and Turnips, more than twenty fine varieties.

They have just received per Ship Minerva, a fine and choice lot of new Flower Seeds, which together with an assortment of over four hundred kinds, comprise the most complete collection ever offered for sale.

FRUIT AND ORNAMENTAL TREES,

Shrubs, Grape Vines, Roses, Dahlias, Green-house Plants, Rhubarb and Asparagus Roots, and all Nursery productions furnished at one day's notice, and when requested, can be packed in mats and boxes, so as to be sent to Europe or any part of America.

Dealers supplied on the most liberal terms with Seeds of various sizes, containing a complete assortment, neatly put up in papers, labelled and sealed ready for retail, with printed directions on each package for its management and cultivation.

GRASS SEEDS,

At wholesale and retail, at the lowest market prices. Also, Kentucky Blue Grass, a first rate article for Lawns. Clover Seed, Red and White, Orchard Grass, Oat Grass, Fowl Meadow, Northern and Southern Red Top, Barley, Oats, Millet, Rhode Island Grass, Buckwheat, &c., &c., of the best quality and for sale low.

AGRICULTURAL BOOKS of all kinds, constantly on hand.

AGRICULTURAL AND GARDEN IMPLEMENTS of all kinds, among which are the following, viz:—1000 Howard's Patent Cast Iron Ploughs, 200 Common do. do, 200 Cultivators, 100 Greene's Straw Cutters, 50 Willis' do. do. 100 Common do. do, 100 Willis' Patent Corn Shellers, 50 Common do. do, 200 Willis' Seed Sowers, 50 do. Vegetable Cutters, 50 Common do. do., 200 Hand Corn Mills, 200 Grain Cradles, 100 Ox Yokes, 1500 Doz. Scythe Stones, 3000 do. Austin's Rifles, 100 doz. Cast Steel Shovels, 150 do. Common do. 100 do. Spades, 500 do. Grass Scythes, 300 do. Patent Snaiths, 200 do. Common do., 500 do. Hay Rakes, 200 do. Garden do., 200 do. Manure Forks, 300 do. Hay do. 500 Pair Trace Chains, 100 do, Truck do. 100 do. Draft do, 500 do. Tie up do, 50 doz. Halter do, 1000 yards Fence do, 25 Grind Stones on Rollers.

TIE UP CHAINS!—Just received by the "Oceanus" 300 Chains for tying up cattle. These chains, introduced by E. H. Derby, Esq. of Salem, and Col. Jacques, for the purpose of securing cattle to the stall, are found to be the safest and most convenient mode of fastening cows and oxen to the stanchion.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.,
N. E. Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston.

Feb. 21, 1844.

FRUIT TREES.

The subscribers are prepared to furnish every description of Fruit Trees, and Ornamental Trees, Shrubs and Plants. The autumn is a suitable time to transplant many Trees and Plants, and often times more convenient than in spring. We have as great a variety of Apples, Pears, Cherries, Plums, Peaches, Quinces, Currants, Gooseberries, &c. as can be found in the country, and offer them at the lowest prices. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Boston, Oct. 11, 1843.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE POET'S DOG.—The manner in which Pope, the great English poet, was preserved by the sagacity of his dog, is truly remarkable. This animal, who was called Marquis, could never agree with a favorite servant of his master: he constantly growled when near him, and would even show his teeth whenever the servant approached. Although the poet was singularly attached to this dog, which was a spaniel of the largest species, yet, on account of his extreme neatness, he would never allow him to be in his chamber at night. Nevertheless, in spite of positive orders, the spaniel would frequently sneak, towards evening, into the apartment of his master, and would not be driven from it without the greatest difficulty.

One evening, having slipped very slily in without being perceived, the animal placed himself under his master's bed, and remained there. Towards morning, the servant above referred to, entered the chamber of Pope. At this moment, the dog suddenly left his post and leaped on the villain, who was armed with a pistol. The poet started from his sleep, and throwing open the window to call for assistance, he beheld three highwaymen, who had been introduced by his servant into the garden of his villa, for the purpose of robbing him. Disconcerted by this unforeseen accident, the robber hesitated a moment, and then took flight. The servant thus betrayed by the watchful dog, was sentenced to forfeit his life.

The same dog, shortly after this singular event, exhibited another proof of his remarkable instinct. Pope, reposing one afternoon in a little wood about twelve miles distant from his house, lost a watch of great value. He did not discover his loss until he had reached home. Two or three hours had elapsed, and a violent storm was just commencing. The poet called his dog, and making a sign, which Marquis very well understood, he said, "I have lost my watch—go look for it." At these words Marquis departed, and repaired, no doubt, to every spot at which his master stopped.

The poor animal was so long occupied in the search, as to create great anxiety, for midnight had arrived, and he had not returned. What was the astonishment of Pope, when on rising in the morning, he opened his chamber door, and there beheld his faithful messenger, lying quietly, and holding in his mouth the costly jewel, with which he had returned perfectly uninjured, and which was the more highly valued by the poet, from its having been presented to him by the Queen of England. —*Merry's Museum.*

The following frightful statement as to the spiritual ignorance now existing in Liverpool, (Eng.) was lately made at a meeting of the town mission there: "There are 65,000 adults who never enter a place of worship, except at a marriage or a funeral; 12,000 adults cannot read; 14,000 families have not a solitary fragment of the Word of God, and 25,000 children go to no schools whatever."

How dependant a thing is human excellence! What is beauty without soap?

A venerable clergyman of a country parish, taking a morning walk, overtook a little boy leading a fractious calf to pasture. The reverend gentleman came up to the boy, and said, "My lad, do you not know that you should raise your hat whenever you see me?" "I expect I oughter," answered the boy, "and I will, if you'll onny hold my calf the whilst."

A fellow having drank too much when mowing, was obliged to crawl home on his hands and knees. While performing this nice operation through a pasture, the father of a flock of sheep perceiving a black thing approaching, lowered his head also, and making a rush, knocked the 'corned' thing head over heels.

Robert Owen, the atheist, told John Randolph that the day would come when mankind should discover the principle of vitality, and of course learn to live forever. "Are you not aware," said he, "that in Egypt, by artificial heat, the people create thousands of chickens."

"Yes," replied Randolph, "but you forget to tell us who furnishes *the eggs*. Show me the man who can *lay an egg*, and I'll agree to your parallel case." The proposition was a poser.

Pun for Pun.—A young lawyer being very assiduous in his attentions to a young lady, a wit observed that he never heard of making love *by attorney*." "Well," replied the other, "but you should remember that all Cupid's votaries are *solicitors*."

A man by the name of New got married, and named his first born "Something," which of course was *Something New*. His second was christened "Nothing," it being *Nothing New*.

PATENT CORN SHELLER.

A Corn sheller is one of the most convenient and labor saving implements that the practical farmer has in use. Various machines for this purpose have been invented. It can be used in all cases for large or small sized ears. It is very simple in its construction, and durable in its operation, and no way liable to get out of order; one man can work it to good advantage, though a man to turn, and a boy to feed it, works it much better than one alone. They are so light and portable, as to be easily removed from place to place, and one machine will serve for several families or even the inhabitants of a small town.

For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Nov. 1.

WILLIS'S LATEST IMPROVED VEGETABLE CUTTER.

For sale at the New England Agricultural Warehouse, No. 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston, Willis's Latest Improved Vegetable Cutter. This machine surpasses all others for the purpose of Cutting Ruta Baga, Mangel Wurtzel, and other roots. The great objection to other machines, is their cutting the roots into slices, which makes it almost impossible for the cattle to get hold of them: this machine with a little alteration, cuts them into large or small pieces, of such shape as is most convenient for the cattle to eat. It will cut with ease from one to two bushels of roots per minute.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

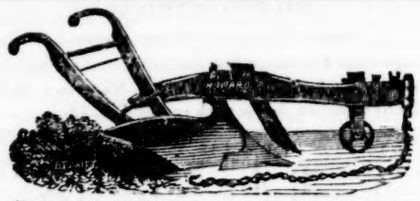
Nov. 1.

DRAFT AND TRACE CHAINS.

400 pair Trace Chains, suitable for Ploughing.
200 " Truck and leading Chains.
200 " Draft Chains. For sale by J. BRECK & CO., No. 52 North Market st.

HARRIS' TREATISE ON INSECTS.

For sale by JOSEPH BRECK & CO., Harris' Treatise on Insects. Price $2. Also, the second edition of Dana's Muck Manual, price 62½ cts. Feb. 15.



HOWARD'S IMPROVED EASY DRAUGHT PLOUGH.

Great improvements have been made the past year in the form and workmanship of these Ploughs; the mould board has been so formed as to *lay the furrow completely over, turning in every particle of grass or stubble, and leaving the ground in the best possible manner.* The length of the mould board has been very much increased, so that the Plough works with the greatest ease, both with respect to the holding and the team. The Committee at the late trial of Ploughs at Worcester, say,

"Should our opinion be asked as to which of the Ploughs we should prefer for use on a farm, we might perhaps say to the inquirer, if your land is mostly light and easy to work, try Prouty & Mears, but if your *land is heavy, hard orrocky,* BEGIN WITH MR. HOWARD'S."

At the above mentioned trial the Howard Plough *did more work, with the same power of team, than any other plough exhibited.* No other turned more than twentyseven and one half inches, to the 112 lbs. draught, while the *Howard Plough turned twentynine and one half inches, to the same power of team!* All acknowledge that Howard's Ploughs are much the strongest and most substantially made.

There has been quite an improvement made on the shoe, or land side of this Plough, which can be renewed without having to furnish a new landside; this shoe likewise secures the mould board and landside together, and strengthens the Plough very much.

The price of the Ploughs is from $6 to $15. A Plough, sufficient for breaking up with four cattle, will cost about $10 50, and with cutter $1, with wheel and cutter, $2 50 extra.

The above Ploughs are for sale, wholesale and retail, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, Nos. 51 & 52 North Market Street, by

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

GREEN'S PATENT STRAW CUTTER.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, have for sale, Green's Patent Straw, Hay and Stalk Cutter, operating on a mechanical principle not before applied to any implement for this purpose. The most prominent effects of this application, and some of the consequent peculiarities of the machine are:

1. So great a reduction of the quantum of power requisite to use it, that the strength of a half grown boy is sufficient to work it efficiently.

2. With even this moderate power, it easily cuts two bushels a minute, which is full twice as fast as has been claimed by any other machine even when worked by horse or steam power.

3. The knives, owing to the peculiar manner in which they cut, require sharpening less often than those of any other straw cutter.

4. The machine is simple in its construction, made and put together very strongly. It is therefore not so liable as the complicated machines in general use to get out of order.

LACTOMETERS—a simple instrument for testing the quality of milk. For sale by J. BRECK & CO.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

A WEEKLY PAPER.

Terms, $2 per year *in advance*, or $2 50 if not paid within sixty days.

N. B.—Postmasters are permitted by law to frank all subscriptions and remittances for newspapers, without expense to subscribers.

TUTTLE AND DENNETT, PRINTERS,
21 School Street.